

For further information

Contact **Brian Hauswirth**,

Public Information officer

Tele: 573/522-1118

Direct FAX: 573/751-4099

P.O. Box 236

Jefferson City MO 65102



For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

March 14, 2008

Crime Rates Down Among Supervised Offenders

The Missouri Department of Corrections is touting success about decreased criminal activity among supervised offenders in the community. Despite limited resources, increased responsibilities and supervising more than 70,000 offenders throughout the state, crime rates among this challenging population has remarkably decreased for three straight years.

Probation and Parole Officers have a wide range of duties, which include monitoring restitution payments to victims, monitoring child support payments, visiting offenders homes and court appearances, coupled with an increasing case load. Among several recent increased responsibilities, Probation and Parole staff has collected more than 85,000 DNA samples from the offender population and continue to collect DNA from new offenders as they arrive. These samples are used to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in investigating unsolved crimes.

In a recent letter to Probation and Parole staff, Scott Johnston, Chief State Supervisor, recognized their difficult job and commended their on-going efforts.

"For several years now, we have seen a lower rate of law violations among those we supervise," Johnston wrote. "Fewer new crimes mean fewer new victims and reduced costs to the community."

Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford added "I know we have isolated incidents where an offender that we supervise commits a horrific crime. However, I think the reduction in crime over a three year period is indicative of the fine work of our probation and parole staff despite dealing with an extremely difficult offender population."

###